

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L PARIS 10406

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SREF, CB, FR

SUBJECT: ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ON CAMBODIAN

REPATRIATE TRAVEL THROUGH FRANCE

REF: PARIS 08563

1. ACNS REPS KLINE AND COLEMAN VISITED EMBASSY APRIL 6 TO DISCUSS STATUS OF CAMBODIANS WHO HAVE TRAVELED FROM PHILADELPHIA TO PARIS TO SEEK REPATRIATION VIA DEMOCRATIC CAMBODIAN (DC) MISSION IN PARIS. THEY NOTED THAT 51 OF THE CAMBODIANS HANDLED BY ACNS ARE CURRENTLY IN PARIS, AND THAT THEY ANTICIPATE ALL 116 WILL ARRIVE BY END OF APRIL. THEY COMMENTED THAT CAMBODIANS WITH WHOM THEY HAVE SPOKEN ARE HIGHLY OPTIMISTIC THAT THEY WILL BE ALLOWED TO RETURN TO CAMBODIA. THEY HAVE APPARENTLY BEEN WELL-RECEIVED AT THE DC MISSION, WHERE THEY HAVE PARTICIPATED IN LECTURE AND FILM SESSIONS, AND DC OFFICIALS HAVE HELD OUT POSSIBILITY OF RETURN TO CAMBODIA BY SUMMER OF 1976. FIRST GROUP MIGHT COME AS EARLY AS JUNE.

2. KLINE AND COLEMAN NOTED THAT 15 OF THE CAMBODIANS SEEKING REPATRIATION HAVE ALREADY RECEIVED CAMBODIAN PASSPORTS FROM THE DC MISSION. AFTER RECEIVING

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PASSPORTS, CAMBODIANS HAVE FOLLOWED INSTRUCTIONS OF

DC MISSION TO APPLY TO FRENCH POLICE FOR THREE MONTH CARTE DE SEJOUR. POLICE, IN ISSUING CARTE DE SEJOUR, HAVE TAKEN CAMBODIANS' U.S. REFUGEE DOCUMENTATION AND HAVE TOLD CAMBODIANS THAT THIS WILL BE GIVEN TO U.S. EMBASSY. KLINE AND COLEMAN WERE CONCERNED THAT THOSE CAMBODIANS WHO PROVED TO BE UNWILLING OR UNABLE TO ENTER CAMBODIA WOULD HAVE DIFFICULTY RETURNING TO THE U.S. WITHOUT THEIR ORIGINAL REFUGEE DOCUMENTS. WE TOLD THEM THAT WE HAD NOT RECEIVED ANY REFUGEE DOCUMENTS TO DATE, BUT THAT WE WOULD MONITOR THEIR ARRIVAL, AND WOULD RETAIN ALL DOCUMENTS UNTIL REPATRIATION OF CAMBODIANS COULD BE CONFIRMED.

3. KLINE TELEPHONED EMBASSY APRIL 7 BEFORE DEPARTING PARIS. HE INDICATED THAT RELATIVELY UNSTRUCTURED ATMOSPHERE IN PARIS HAS BEGUN TO HAVE ITS EFFECT ON CAMBODIANS, AND THAT AN UNSPECIFIED NUMBER OF THEM HAVE ALREADY DECIDED NOT TO RETURN TO CAMBODIA. KLINE ANTICIPATED THAT ADDITIONAL CAMBODIANS IN PHILADELPHIA AND PARIS WILL HAVE SIMILAR SECOND THOUGHTS, AND WAS CONCERNED THAT NO PROBLEMS SHOULD ARISE IN THEIR EVENTUAL RETURN FOR RESETTLEMENT IN THE U.S.
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